

James W. Sitler, September 5, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

CERTIFICATE OF JAMES W. SITLER.

Nashville, September 5, 1813¹

¹ This statement is endorsed, "James Sitler, certificate, Sept. 5, 1820. Affair with Benton".

I certify that on the morning of the fourth of September I was standing on the steps of Talbots Hotel when Genl Jackson and Col Coffee passed by; they went to the post office; on their return, they passed Mr Jesse Benton on the pavement in front of Talbots house; Jesse Benton stept into the Barr-room-door, Genl Jackson in the passage door, as he (Jackson) stept in to the door he spoke to Col Benton, (who was either in the passage or on the back portico), Now defend yourself, you damned rascal and drew a pistol from under his coat; (Jesse Benton had passed through the bar-room to the door that opens into the passage, from which place he shot at the Genl) immediately after the Genl spoke there, were, three or four pistols fired in quick succession, by the Bentons and Jackson. I ran into the passage and found the Genl laying in the back-door, and Jesse Benton with a pistol in his hand, in the act of shooting or striking; when I caught hold of the Genl drew him from under the pistol and placed him on his feet; at this time Mr Hays had laid hold on Benton; Col Coffee did not fire till Genl Jackson had been shot down, he then fired at Col Benton who was standing on the back portico.